(b) Release of new LPG connections is done by the oil industry all over the country, including in Maharashtra, in a phased manner under its annual programme for enrolment of customers, subject to augmentation in availability of LPG.

LPG Agency at Fatehpur/Rehan, Himachal Pradesh

2423. SHRI R. S. NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up L.P.G. Agency at Fatehpur/Rehan in District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Fatehpur/Rehan, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh are small rural areas with population of 2200 and 1200 respectively and establishment of an independent LPG distributorship at the above locations will not be economically viable.

Use of plastics in Agriculture

2424. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major thrust is being given by the Department of Petrochemicals to the use of plastics in agriculture; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFARIS AND THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) and (b) With a view to promote use of plastics in agriculture and water management, the Government has set up a National Committee on the Use of Plastics in Agriculture (NCPA). The NCPA has been organising workshops, seminars and training programmes for propagating the use of plastics in a packaging of fruits and vegetables and also introduction of plasticulture applications such as drip/sprinkler irrigation, canal/pond lining, green houses, mulching, etc. By now, 22 Plasticulture Development Centres have also been set up by NCPA at the leading agricultural universities, irrigation research institutes and the plastics industry for undertaking research and development for extensive use of plastics in agriculture and water management.

Price control on Durabolin, Decaduabolin and Orabolin

2425. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Durabolin, Decaduragbolin and Orabolin are price decontrolled;

(b) if so, what is the price at which each injection of each strength is being sold at present;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has received break-up of the prices of these medicines as required under DPCO, 1987;

(d) if so, what is the MAPE charged on each injection;

(e) whether it is also a fact that these injections are sold at very high prices;

(f) if so, what steps have been taken to make these available at fair prices;

(g) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry received number of

representations regarding high prices and wrong exclusion of these medicines from price control; and

(h) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The required details to the extent available will be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

(g) and (h) After considering the various representations about inclusion/exclusion of drugs under price control the Kelkar Committee in its supplementary report did not recommend inclusion of the bulk drugs contained in these formulations under price control.

Overcharged amounts on Proxyvon Range of formulations

2426. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR REHMAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question 4 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1989 and state :

(a) whether the details for recovering the overcharged amounts in respect of Proxyvon range formulations have since been received;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what action is being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFARS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) to (c) The required details are still awaited from the company. The matter is being pursued.

Overcharging on drug formulations

2427. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instances of overcharging the prices of Dextropropoxyphene and its formulations, Metronidazole and its formulations, Analgin and its formulations, Doxycycline and its formulations, Gentamycin and its formulations, Dexamethasone formulations, Flucinolone formulations came to the notice of his Ministry;

(b) if so, when did each instance came to the notice;

(c) what action was taken against each company under Essential Commodities Act;

(d) whether his Ministry worked out the overcharging in these cases;

(e) if so, what are the name of drug producer, rate of recovery and quantity taken into account; and

(f) by when the amount from other companies would be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) to (c) The liability of some of the formulations arising under paragraph 7 (2) of DPCO, 1979 came to the notice of the Government and letters to about 230 formula-